

# State of South Dakota

## EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2010

823R0714

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Introduced by: Senators Hunhoff (Jean), Abdallah, Frysliie, Gant, Hanson (Gary), and Miles  
and Representatives Pitts, Blake, Bolin, Faehn, Greenfield, McLaughlin,  
Novstrup (David), Rausch, Rave, Rounds, Vanneman, and Verchio

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Strongly supporting influenza vaccination for health care  
2 workers who have direct patient contact.

3 WHEREAS, along with the public health benefits of appropriate immunization comes an  
4 individual and community responsibility to ensure maximum disease prevention, especially  
5 among the most vulnerable members of society; and

6 WHEREAS, achieving and sustaining high vaccination coverage among health care workers  
7 will protect staff and their patients, and reduce disease burden and related health care costs; and

8 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the University of Virginia Health System showed that  
9 when health care workers' vaccination rates increased from four percent in 1987-1988 to sixty-  
10 seven percent in 1999-2000, the proportion of hospital-acquired (nosocomial) influenza cases  
11 declined significantly among employees (forty-two percent to nine percent) and patients (thirty-  
12 two percent to three percent); and

13 WHEREAS, influenza transmission and outbreaks in hospitals and nursing homes  
14 associated with low vaccination rates among health care workers are well-documented; health



1 care workers can acquire influenza from patients or transmit influenza to patients and other  
2 staff; and

3 WHEREAS, influenza vaccination coverage among health care workers remains low despite  
4 the documented benefits of health care worker vaccination on patient outcomes, reducing  
5 influenza infection among staff and reducing health care worker absenteeism; and

6 WHEREAS, a November 2008 study by RAND found that the influenza vaccine uptake  
7 level for health care workers and caregivers was approximately forty-two percent, consistent  
8 with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates of health care workers  
9 vaccination; and

10 WHEREAS, cost-effectiveness studies of adults aged sixty-five and younger indicate that  
11 influenza vaccination can reduce both direct medical costs and indirect costs from work  
12 absenteeism: thirteen percent to forty-four percent fewer health care provider visits; eighteen  
13 percent to forty-five percent fewer lost workdays; eighteen percent to twenty-eight percent fewer  
14 days working with reduced effectiveness; and a twenty-five percent decrease in antibiotic use  
15 for influenza-like illness; and

16 WHEREAS, among healthy persons aged eighteen to sixty-four years, vaccination can save  
17 an estimated sixty dollars to four thousand dollars per illness, depending on the costs of  
18 vaccination, the influenza attack rate, and vaccine effectiveness against influenza-like illness;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, in another economic analysis, vaccination resulted in an average annual cost  
21 savings of thirteen dollars and sixty-six cents per person vaccinated; and

22 WHEREAS, the American Association of Physician Assistants, American College of  
23 Physicians, American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American  
24 Pharmacist Association, Association for Professionals in Infection Control, the Center for

1 Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the Hospital Infection  
2 Control Practice Advisory Committee, and the Public Health Agency of Canada support routine  
3 vaccination of health care workers:

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-fifth Legislature of  
5 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South  
6 Dakota Legislature strongly supports routine influenza vaccination for health care workers who  
7 have direct patient contact.